

After 12 years,  
man pleads guilty  
in Tosa slaying

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# WISCONSIN



WWI  
gardens  
sowed  
victory

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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1998

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL — STATE EDITION

SECTION B



EUGENE KANE

## The big business of educating little people

OK. Now I get it. It's a business story. Like a lot of folks, I have been hard-pressed to understand why Gov. Tommy Thompson wants the state to take over the Milwaukee Public Schools system.

Why would state government, with all its worries, want to get involved in public education in Milwaukee?

But then I started thinking about it in terms of the financial page, and it started to make sense.

After all, we're in the age of mergers and acquisitions — more than \$800 billion of mergers announced so far this year — and almost every week, some multibillion dollar corporation decides to expand its interests.

Often, these mergers can happen quickly without warning, like when your old bank suddenly announces it's getting a new name.

Or when one big automaker merges with another, like the folks who make Mercedes-Benz sedans buying into Chrysler (I still can't figure that one out: Do they want to make a cheaper, less efficient Benz or a more expensive, better-running Chrysler?).

Sometimes, the merger makes sense. You can understand why a mammoth publishing firm would buy another publishing firm to form a publishing superfirm. You can understand why a phone company merges with its competition.

It's all about money.

The takeover of MPS is about money, too. For all intentions, MPS is a badly floundering institution, one heavily subsidized by taxpayers. Thompson is a pro-business governor who realizes the only way any

state can sustain a thriving economic base is for its work force to be well educated.

In business terms, MPS is considered valuable because of its prin-

cipal assets, more than 100,000 public school students. It also has a lot of staff positions, teachers, administrators and lots of buildings, but the state is not really interested in that part of the portfolio.

Milwaukee is the state's most important city, and Milwaukee-educated public students will be counted on to provide the manpower and operate the technology that takes us into the 21st century.

But the image of MPS graduates — largely black and Hispanic from poor households, students who don't read or do math well enough to compete in the marketplace — represents a major deterrent for big businesses in this state.

The solution for a pro-business governor like Thompson — who apparently sees public school students as software — must have been simple: Mount a hostile takeover of MPS in order to improve the product and capitalize on a future supply-and-demand need.

Install a bold new leadership team with one mandate, to turn things around. Break up the board of directors and install your own.

Streamline the system, tinker with operations and hope for good results.

In that context, the state takeover of MPS looks like any other big corporation deciding to swallow up a smaller one to take advantage of the marketplace.

Basically, it's the plot from "Wall Street," with Thompson playing the role of Gordon Gekko.

Of course, this kind of thing is easier to do in business than with education. You can't just cut costs and maximize profits and expect kids to learn better.

Which is one reason why black legislators are upset about being left out of the planning stages of the state takeover of MPS. But that makes sense, too; the CEO always goes with his own team in a deal this big.

The other similarity to the corporate world is the way MPS employees and students have been left to deal with an uncertain future.

Their company is "in play," and there's nothing they can do but sit around and wait to see what happens.

Call Eugene Kane at 223-5521  
or e-mail him at ekane@onwis.com

## Painter charged in statue thefts

Mauston man accused of taking 11 church figures from Milwaukee County; 9 still remain undamaged

By DAVID DOEGE  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Jeffrey L. Maas, a self-employed house painter who allegedly stole religious statues from churches to save them for posterity, was charged Wednesday with stealing 11 figures from Milwaukee County sites.

In addition to the 11 from Milwaukee County, the cache of statues recovered from Maas' Juneau County property includes eight statues that have been traced to central Wisconsin. Authorities have yet to determine where nine additional statues belong.

"At this point, we have

more statues recovered than we have thefts reported," said Milwaukee County Assistant District Attorney James Frisch. "I don't know where the other nine come from."

Maas likely will face additional charges in other jurisdictions, including Juneau County, Frisch said.

Maas was charged in the complaint with three counts of felony theft and four counts of misdemeanor theft for the 11 statues stolen from seven sites — six churches and one hospital — in Milwaukee.

The complaint indicated that Maas believed that all Catholic churches would be destroyed and that the world

was nearing an end. He took steps to conceal his statue thefts, according to the complaint. For example, he moved the statues in steps to ensure that they weren't bugged with tracking devices, and he hired an airplane to fly over his camouflaged storage shed to determine whether it could be seen from the air.

The complaint portrayed Maas as a man who had "found Jesus" in 1988 and had considered the priesthood, but abandoned the thought because the seminary — he didn't specify which one — was "too liberal."

He carried out the thefts alone, according to the complaint, wrapping the statues — some weighing in excess of 100 pounds — in sheets and hauling them to his truck.

"He stated that he would transport the statues to the sheds on the weekends," the complaint says. "He usually kept the statues in a shed in Germantown for a few weeks and then transported them to his larger structure in Neenah."

"He explained that he feared that the statues may have been bugged with a transmitting device, so he temporarily would place the statues in the first shed for a few weeks. He figured that if it was bugged he would only lose that statue and not the numerous statues that he had in his permanent structure in the woods near Neenah."

As for his motive, according to the complaint, Maas listed

Please see STATUES page 2



JEFFREY PHELPS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Jeffrey L. Maas (left) makes his initial appearance Wednesday in a Milwaukee County court.

## Celebrating Syttende Mai



JOE KOSHOLLEK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Promoting the Syttende Mai festival, dancers from Stoughton High School perform the "window dance" Wednesday at the Capitol Square in Madison. Syttende Mai marks Norwegian independence.

## Dalai Lama says he's sad over India's nuclear testing

Tibetan leader, on his 4th visit to Madison, calls for eliminating the weapons

By FRAN BAUER  
AND TOM HEINEN  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Madison — In his first public appearance since India exploded nuclear weapons in underground tests, the Dalai Lama expressed sadness and called for the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons.

But Tibet's exiled spiritual and political leader stopped short of criticizing his adopted homeland, India. Instead, he questioned why it is considered permissible for some large nations to have nuclear weapons.

"There is sometimes the concept, a few nations OK to possess nuclear weapons (and) the rest of the world should not," he said during a news conference in the state Capitol with Gov. Tommy Thompson seated at his side. "That's undemocratic. If bigger nations have the right to possess, then India is a bigger nation."

But the real solution may be the one proposed by China, he said, since that country has called for a complete elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide.

"That's a proper way to pursue this," he said, adding,

"I'm quite sure if total elimination of nuclear weapons comes, India will definitely join."

Tenzin Gyatso, Tibet's 14th Dalai Lama, was in Madison on the final stop in a tour of four U.S. cities to spread his philosophy of non-violence and to gain support for his efforts to halt Chinese oppression of his people.

His visit here, to be mostly occupied with teaching about meditation, also included a speech Wednesday to the Legislature and state officials, and another speech to 13,000 people at the Kohl Center.

During the speech in the Assembly chamber, the Dalai Lama delivered his message of peace, compassion and inner harmony to an audience that agreed it had a lot to learn from the spiritual leader.

"His message has meaning for everybody," Thompson said after the speech. "What he's saying is we're all different but we're all the same. If we work together, we'll get things done."

Before a crowd not exactly known for inner peace, the Dalai Lama told a joint session of the Legislature that people need to pay more attention to their spiritual development and that human compassion is the key to achieving inner peace.

"That's a proper way to pursue this," he said, adding,

Please see DALAI LAMA page 7

## Thompson struggling to save MPS takeover

GOP senators balk at plan but have been unable to reach compromise

By DANIEL BICE  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Madison — Facing perhaps one of the biggest legislative setbacks of his tenure, Gov. Tommy Thompson made an impassioned, last-ditch effort Wednesday to save his bill to take over Milwaukee Public Schools.

After Senate Republicans tried unsuccessfully to come up with a viable alternative, Thompson met personally with Senate Republicans in an hourlong, closed-door meeting.

Under his plan, the group could come up with a

compromise plan by Friday.

But Senate Education Chairwoman Alberta Darling, who was supposed to shepherd the measure through the Senate, was much less optimistic, saying the bill was in "limbo."

"It's in the emergency room," said Darling (R-River Hills). "We're trying to save the patient — who are the children of the Milwaukee Public School system."

Darling said she had failed in her efforts to come up with an alternative that could pass the Senate and have the support of the governor. Republicans hold a 17-16 edge in the Senate.

She said Thompson is "the only one who can put this back together."

Under his plan, the

## 13 indicted in gang drug trade

Prosecutors say cocaine flowed from Los Angeles to Milwaukee, other cities

By KRISTINA M. KNAPCIK  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Thirteen people have been indicted on charges that they were involved in arranging nearly \$1 million in drug deals through a Los Angeles-based street gang with operatives in Milwaukee, authorities announced Wednesday.

"This is a lethal mix — guns, drugs and gangs," U.S. Attorney Thomas Schneider said, in announcing the indictments during a news conference at the Police Administration Building, 749 W. State St.

Ten of the defendants named in the 25-count indictment, which was filed April 21, are in custody, Schneider said. Three remain at large and are believed to be in Los Angeles, Schneider said.



Robinson Sallis

The indictment includes charges ranging from money laundering, racketeering and drug trafficking. The indictment alleges that beginning in 1995, members of the 118th Street East Coast Crips shipped crack cocaine, powder cocaine, heroin and other drugs to Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Winston-Salem, N.C., and other cities.

Four of the defendants were arrested in Milwaukee, four others were arrested in Los Angeles. Authorities said one member was arrested in San Diego and another in Utah.

The four arrested in Milwaukee are being held at the Milwaukee County Jail.

Wisconsin residents named in the indictment were Tresa McCormick; Gregory Sallis, 33; Larry K. Tender; and Tanoria Bailey.

The man prosecutors believe to be the leader of the gang, Keith L. Robinson, 33, of Los Angeles, was charged under the federal "kingpin" statute, and, if convicted, could be imprisoned for life without parole.

Others named in the indictment were Charles R. Henderson, 23, of Los Angeles; Nelson M. James, 23, of Los Angeles; Alicia Broadway; Joell Jordan; Leah Robertson; Denise Betts-Guignard; Beverly Hendrix, 31; and LaQuita Hampton. All live outside Wisconsin.

The three who are at large are Henderson, James and Hendrix.

Please see COCAINE page 4

Please see TAKEOVER page 4


**WISCONSIN'S WEATHER TEAM  
MILWAUKEE FORECAST**


I think everyone knows by now that tonight is the last episode of "Seinfeld," a two-hour extravaganza beginning at 7 on WTMJ-TV (Channel 4). There were a few episodes of this clever comedy that dealt with weather, but not many.

The foremost weather connection was when Jerry tried to purchase an umbrella on the street

**The joke's on the weatherman already**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
75 / 52	78 / 60	76 / 55	79 / 54	80 / 55
Great Spring weather. Wind: 10-20	Scattered thunderstorms developing.	Partly cloudy and nice.	Lots of sunshine and mild.	Scattered thunderstorms possible.

**The joke's on the weatherman already**

from a vendor, and criticized the seller for a poor job twisting the handle, a marketing ploy he invented. Here are a few weather "jokes" in honor of the last "Seinfeld" show:

■ A college student taking a break from cramming for finals walks past a pawn shop. A sign in the window says, "Brains for Sale," so he goes in to look for a better brain.

The first brain sitting in a beaker filled with fluid is labeled "Chairman of the Board, \$25,000." He looks further and sees a surgeon's

brain for \$50,000. At the end of the row is a brain for \$500,000, labeled "Meteorologist." He asks the proprietor why this brain is so much more expensive, and the proprietor says, "Young man, this brain has never been used!"

■ An elderly gentleman married to a beautiful young woman hangs up the phone abruptly, and his wife asks who called. "It was a wrong number," he says. "It was some young guy who must have been from the National Weather Service calling to say, 'The coast is clear!'"

**WEATHER WATCH**

CONDITIONS IN MILWAUKEE FOR 24 HOURS ENDING AT 7 P.M. WEDNESDAY

Temp. Time Norm/Record Year

High 70 12:29 p.m. 63 86 1977

Low 56 6:12 a.m. 44 30 1960

Degree Days Day Month Season

Yesterday 2 131 6211

Deviation -10 -45 -869

Precipitation Day Month Year

Yesterday 0.00" 1.22" 14.37"

Deviation -0.09" 0.00" +3.93"

River Levels Flood Stage Current

Milwaukee River 7 ft. 2.83 ft.

Kinnickinnic River 17 ft. 6.38 ft.

Yesterday's Mitchell International Airport hourly temperatures F

M 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 AM

63 62 61 60 59 57 59 63 65 67

N 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 PM

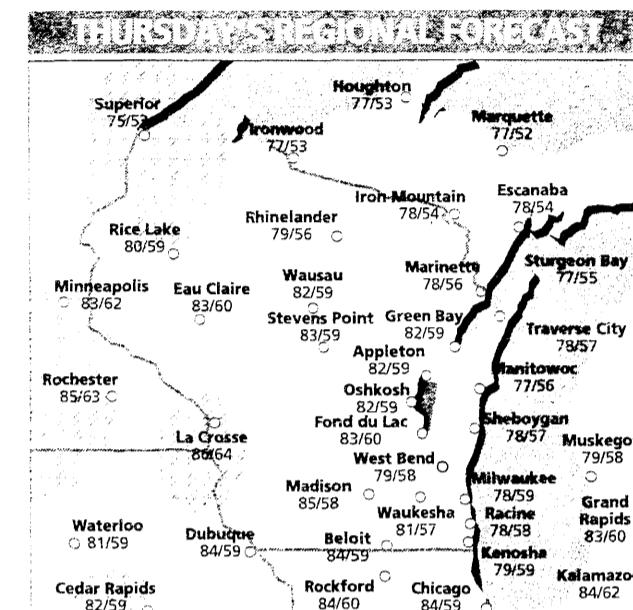
69 68 66 66 65 63 62 61 60 57

Air Quality Main Pollutant

54 Moderate Ozone

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

The higher the UV number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.



Forecast temperatures of today's high and tonight's overnight low.

**WEATHER OUTLOOK**

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy across the state with a chance of thunderstorms west. Highs will range from the middle 70s to the middle 80s. Lows, middle 50s to middle 60s.

**Friday:** Partly to mostly cloudy statewide with a chance of showers and storms. It will be humid as well with highs in the middle 70s to low 80s. Lows will be in the 60s.

**Saturday:** A chance of showers and storms east, becoming partly cloudy to mostly sunny west. Highs, 70s and low 80s. Lows, 50s and low 60s.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny skies across the state with high temperatures in the 70s and low 80s. Lows, upper 40s and 50s.

**Monday:** Partly cloudy skies. Highs will be from the middle 70s to low 80s. Lows will be in the 50s.

**VISIBLE PLANETS THURSDAY**

Rise Set

Mercury 4:41 a.m. 5:53 p.m.

Venus 3:56 a.m. 4:27 p.m.

Mars 5:30 a.m. 8:03 p.m.

Jupiter 3:12 a.m. 2:46 p.m.

Saturn 4:37 a.m. 5:44 p.m.

First Full Last New

June 1 June 9 May 18 May 25

Visible Planets Thursday

Seattle 60s

Portland 50s

Billings 60s

Bolte 40s

Casper 50s

Rapid City 70s

San Francisco 40s

Las Vegas 60s

Salt Lake 40s

Denver 50s

Phoenix 70s

Albuquerque 50s

Billings 50s

Wichita 70s

Omaha 40s

Des Moines 50s

Minneapolis 80s

Milwaukee 80s

Duluth 80s

Fargo 70s

Chicago 70s

Des Moines 70s

St. Louis 70s

Indianapolis 80s

Memphis 80s

Little Rock 80s

Nashville 80s

Atlanta 80s

Charleston 80s

Montgomery 80s

Dallas 90s

Houston 80s

Orlando 80s

New Orleans 80s

Miami 90s

Philadelphia 70s

Baltimore 70s

Boston 60s

Providence 70s

Rhode Island 70s

W. Greenfield 70s

W. Springfield 70s

&lt;p

High court ruling  
to have little effect  
on state's tribes

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# MILWAUKEE METRO AND STATE NEWS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1998

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL — FINAL EDITION

SECTION B



Janz At Large



WILLIAM JANZ

## In death, he gets to ride Harley he longed for

Two brothers will ride together in the Harley-Davidson parade Saturday, one on a Harley, the other in an urn.

Kerry Royce had promised his brother David that they'd be in the parade, and they will be, Kerry in front, David behind, in an urn inside a custom-made box, covered in black leather, of course.

David was a bit of a parade himself. He was a Harley fanatic, but drove a 1988 Mercury wagon, "with purple stripes in the front and on the side," Kerry said. "Purple windshield wipers, and a purple lizard on the dash."

After a long illness, David, who was 40, died in March, and the purple-striped car became his hearse. David was cremated, and Kerry took the urn and drove the purple-striped Merc to the funeral; afterward, Kerry drove it to David's Harleyized apartment on the south side.

"He had motorcycle pictures all over the place," Kerry said. "He had Harley collectibles, Harley books, beer cans; he was a Harley nut."

But he didn't have a Harley.

"He couldn't afford one," Kerry said. "I felt bad about what he had been going through with cancer, and I just wanted to do something great for him. So I said I'd get one."

But it didn't work out the way Kerry and David had planned. Not much has gone the way the Royces planned this year.

In January, their father, David, 63, had a stroke while visiting friends in New Jersey.

"It set us scrambling, and everyone, all seven kids, went out there," Kerry said.

David had had several serious surgeries, but he went to be with his dad.

After Mr. Royce died, "I drove my father's van back from New Jersey and Dave came with me," Kerry said.

They had a lot of hours to fill, and they talked Dad and family and Harleys.

"Dave already had a ticket to the Harley festival," Kerry said, "but he wasn't going to be in the parade."

"Yes, you are, Kerry said.

"Getting a Harley was one of his dreams," Kerry said.

"It's all he talked about," a sister, Dorothy, said.

"He couldn't afford it, but I could, and I said, 'We're going to ride in the parade,'" Kerry said. "That was unbelievable for him."

Finally, David was going to be inside that curb-to-curb thunder and leather.

"He was fighting cancer for a couple of years," Kerry said. "We thought he beat it. He thought he beat it. The doctors thought he beat it."

But, earlier this year, after his father died, David was hospitalized. More surgery. It didn't help.

"Everybody was there again," Kerry said. "My sister from New York. My brother from Texas. It was a heck of a way to get back together again."

And, like the father, the son died.

"David was a very caring, giving, loving person," Kerry said.

After the funeral parade of the purple-striped car, brother Kerry decided that there was one parade left for brother David. On Saturday, riding a Harley Sportster 1200, Kerry, 38, of Madison, will wear his brother's black leather Harley jacket. Kerry's wife, Cindy, will ride behind him. And the urn will be in the box.

David was a jester who romped and kidded, and he would have appreciated what his mother said. At first, she worried that a motorcycle was no place for a breakable urn; she was afraid that the urn would fall, her son's ashes would spill out, and 25,000 motorcycles would run over them.

Then Mrs. Royce could hear her son laughing.

"Big deal, so I'm run over," the dead man said.

As long as they're Harleys.

## High court to rule today on choice

Decision on expanding program to religious schools will have national impact, supporters and critics say

By JOE WILLIAMS  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

The eyes of the nation will be upon Wisconsin today as, for the first time in American history, a state supreme court rules on whether tax money

can be used to allow poor children to attend religious schools.

"Should the court open the door for choice alternatives, this will have tremendous impact nationally," said Angelina Cepelka, an education

professor at Marquette University who specializes in church-state issues. "This is very cutting-edge."

"What is about to happen in Milwaukee is a huge story everywhere," said Clint Bolick, litigation director for the Institute for Justice, which has helped defend the private-school voucher programs in Milwaukee and Cleveland.

The long-awaited decision on whether the expansion of Milwaukee's Parental Choice Program to religious schools is constitutional will be issued this morning in Madison. The Journal Sentinel will make the decision available on the newspaper's Web site as soon as it becomes available.

Many school choice supporters have watched Mil-

waukee and Cleveland race their way through the courts, assuming that one would ultimately become the definitive school voucher case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Ohio Supreme Court hasn't yet heard arguments in its case, and the Cleveland program has suffered politi-

Please see CHOICE page 2



Juneau County Sheriff's Detective Thomas Czys holds a statue that is one of thousands of religious items that his department recovered and is holding at a secure location near Necedah. House painter Jeffrey L. Maas of West Allis has been accused of stealing the items.

MICHAEL SEARS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



This monstrance holds a tooth thought to have belonged to St. Thaddius of Rome. The items of known value are worth at least \$77,000.

## Authorities wondering how to return religious items found after arrest

Only 2% of inventory has been claimed by owners

By PETER MALLER  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Necedah — If your Catholic church is missing a 2,000-year-old bone fragment from the apostle Jude, please call Detective Thomas L. Czys at the Juneau County Sheriff's Department. He'd like to return it.

The yellowish bone sliver

and a large tooth, said to be preserved from the remains of St. Thaddius of Rome, are among thousands of unclaimed religious articles police seized from Jeffrey L. Maas, the West Allis man who allegedly was preparing for the apocalypse by stealing from churches so survivors could continue to practice Catholicism.

About 30 religious statues and 400 books, representing less than 2% of the total inventory, have been claimed, Czys said. That leaves a small

mountain of religious goods — such as communion wafers, votive candles, priest's vestments, jeweled chalices and a font for holy water — for police to return.

"It is probably the most extensive collection of religious artifacts in the Northern Hemisphere," said Father Kevin Louis, pastor of St. Mary's Ridge Catholic Church in rural Cashton. "There may be nothing like it, except for what the pope has at the Vatican."

Please see RELICS page 2

## Summer school's return is a hot ticket

After 5-year hiatus, more than 16,500 students register for MPS program

By JOE WILLIAMS  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

More than 16,500 students have registered for summer school in the Milwaukee Public Schools this summer, school officials said Tuesday — an enthusiastic reception for the program that is returning after a 5-year hiatus.

"This is clearly one of the success stories for this year," Deputy Superintendent Tom McGinnity told the School Board's Innovation/School Reform Committee.

The School Board and Superintendent Alan Brown made bringing back summer school a high priority for this year to help strengthen the academic performance of students under higher standards imposed in recent years. The largest obstacle appeared to be the cost, but school officials said Tuesday they are still putting together a plan that would use funds from various sources within and outside the district's budget.

Ultimately, school officials said they hope to see the program return to the days when as many as 30,000 students participated in MPS summer school.

Five years ago, then-Superintendent Howard Fuller asked the board to eliminate summer school as a cost-saving measure, with the idea that it would be returned when some private financing

Please see MPS page 2

## Racine agent gets 7 years for fraud

Victims say sentence isn't enough to make up for violation of trust

By DAVE DALEY  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Dozens of victims of a long-time Racine insurance agent who bilked them out of more than \$2.5 million in one of the biggest consumer frauds in state history crowded federal court Tuesday to see the agent sentenced to seven years and four months in prison.

But for some of the elderly victims, who initially lost life savings and retirement nest-eggs, the sentence given Michael Anniuk was not long enough.

"You used our friendship to steal our money," one victim, Carol Ann Maricile of Salem, said bitterly to Anniuk as she addressed the court. "I have more respect for a man who would meet me in the street, put a gun to my head and steal my purse."

Anniuk, she said, was a

trusted family friend who ate meals at her family's table, went fishing with them and then stole their money under the guise of friendship."

Anniuk, an insurance agent for two decades, was working primarily for Mutual of New York (MONY) and Jackson National Life Insurance Co. when in 1994 he started selling phony investments to longtime clients and pocketing checks he had them make out to him.

Both insurance companies have already reimbursed most of the victims — 57 at last count, mostly from Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties. And Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph R. Wall, who prosecuted Anniuk, said almost all of the victims eventually will get all their money back.

Wall said it appeared that most of the stolen money was gambled away by Anniuk at an Illinois casino but said that more than \$100,000 seized from Anniuk's bank when he was arrested will be used to make restitution.

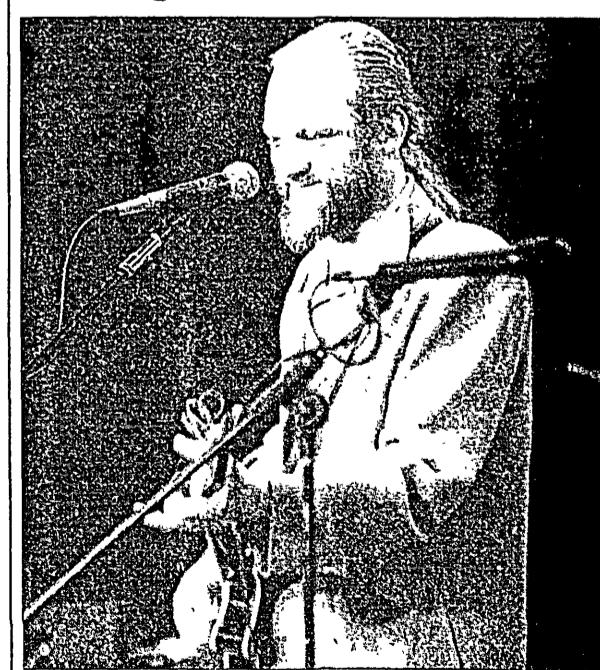
In sentencing Anniuk to prison, U.S. District Judge Rudolph T. Randa ordered Anniuk to undergo mental counseling for his self-admitted addiction to gambling and participate in Gamblers Anonymous.

Anniuk, 52, sat throughout most of Tuesday's sentencing hearing with his head in his hands as half a dozen victims marched forward to tell the judge how his fraud scheme ruined them financially as well as emotionally.

Mel Baran of Racine, who is 65 and planned to retire soon, said he has known Anniuk for 20 years, and said Anniuk stole money intended for his daughter's college fund. After discovering the loss, Baran said he had to cancel his retirement and reassess how he could pay for his daughter's college.

Anniuk's lawyer, Gregory Parr, said Anniuk's wife has now divorced him and said Anniuk will not see his two daughters — one 17, the other 11 — for a long time.

## Singin' in the Rainbow



TOM LYNN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Guitarist Paul Cebar, accompanied by his Rainbow Summer All-Star Jam, performs Tuesday at the opening of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Rainbow Summer on the Marcus Center grounds. The summer-long series is in its 16th season. Story on Page 6B.

# Choice/Court to issue ruling

From page 1

cally in recent months in the wake of an audit that questioned cost overruns and bad publicity from an Indiana study that reported no statistical test score gains in the first year of the program.

Increasingly, choice supporters began to look to Milwaukee for the lead.

"The Milwaukee program is the largest functioning school choice program," Bolick said. "As a result, all eyes are on the court to see what they decide."

James Hall, an attorney representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as a plaintiff in the case, said his side was hopeful that the court would not "make a dramatically new decision" by upholding the program.

"This will play a significant role in how this whole thing plays out nationally," Hall said.

Hall warned, however, that even if the court upholds choice, the NAACP would be allowed to separately address in Circuit Court whether the program would create a segregated school system — an argument set aside when the case was decided in Circuit Court and

upheld by the appellate court. Kathleen Lyons, a spokeswoman for the National Education Association, which has opposed choice, said many people were watching the decision, but noted that its level of importance will be determined by the outcome.

"We believe that while the decision is important, it isn't the be-all and end-all on this issue," Lyons said.

Today's decision comes exactly six years to the day after a group called PAVE, Partners Advancing Values in Education, formed to provide scholarships for low-income students at religious schools in the city.

"The intent was not to be a permanent charity but to help determine the level of support for school choice in Milwaukee," said Dan McKinley, PAVE executive director.

At the time, a limited choice program designed by Rep. Annette Polly Williams (D-Milwaukee) was under way in Milwaukee, but the number of slots and participating schools was very limited.

"By offering these scholarships, we thought we could tell whether the interest would be there for more widespread

choices," McKinley said. "A week later, we had 7,500 applications."

Private school choice started small in Milwaukee, with 300 students participating in the 1990-91 school year at seven private schools. It has grown to about 1,500 students at 23 schools. The state has spent about \$27 million altogether on the program, money that otherwise would have gone to MPS.

Eighty-one religious schools have notified the state that they plan to register for choice school status for the 1998-99 school year if the program wins in court. Eight additional non-sectarian schools also have applied, which would bring their number to 31.

By design, the choice program puts the responsibility of selecting and overseeing choice schools on parents. Almost no state strings have been attached to the money going to choice schools — teachers don't have to be licensed and curriculum isn't reviewed. Money is paid to the schools based on two checks of attendance records over the course of the year.

The ruling can be found on [www.jsonline.com](http://www.jsonline.com)

## Relics/Items to be returned to churches

From page 1

The items of known value are worth a total of at least \$77,000, Czys said. But that does not include dozens of ancient artifacts that the detective called priceless.

"How can you put a price on the bones of a saint?" he asked.

It took 15 men working 10 hours a day for five days to haul the entire collection from a site Maas allegedly used for storage to a warehouse at a location near Necedah that investigators want kept secret.

"I want you to understand that we don't know what in this room was stolen and what wasn't," the detective said.

A total of 279 pieces have been marked as evidence. But thousands of other items, many of them books, remain uncataloged.

Some are obviously inexpensive religious items, packed in cardboard boxes, maybe purchased at rummage sales. Among the items, investigators found thousands of rosaries and hundreds of crucifixes.

Czys, a Catholic who was once an altar boy, apologized for his lack of ability to identify the religious purposes of several items.

"This is not my expertise," he said, as he led a reporter and photographer on a tour of an immense room housing the artifacts. "You know, I deal with a lot of stolen guns and chain saws all the time. So if I sound a little vague, that's the reason."

The storage room bulges with brass candleholders, candles, gold plates used for communion, paintings, small statues, altar cloths and a tabernacle valued at somewhere between \$5,000 to \$10,000.

"There was a priest who went though this place and said there was enough stuff in this room to outfit at least 10 churches," the detective said. "When priests get a look at this, their eyes open really wide."

Mass, 38, a self-employed house painter, was charged with stealing 11 statues from the Milwaukee area. But Czys said he could be charged with "hundreds of additional felonies" if people step forward to identify the remaining items.

"So far, we have more questions than answers," Czys said. The detective thinks Maas spent at least 10 years stealing from churches.

"Just look around. He's been a very busy man."

A brass sculpted Bible cover appears to belong to a church in Marshfield that contacted Czys. A recent phone call received from a priest in Stevens Point is expected to lead to more goods being returned, he said.

Louis, the Cashton-area priest, was thankful to retrieve five large religious statues stolen last year. He also recovered a solid gold tabernacle, a container that held blessed communion wafers.

"I wasn't even aware that it was missing," he said. "It was small but weighed about 100 pounds."

To contact Czys about missing church articles, call (608) 847-9435.

## MPS/Summer school gets strong reception

From page 1

could be arranged. It has been gone ever since.

This summer's session in MPS will begin June 22, and will include "wrap-around" services before and after school for as many as 10,000 students, McGinnity said.

"There's no question it's the right thing to do," McGinnity said. "It's been amazing to see what the community's response has been, but we need to continue to work with the community and the state on this."

A bill to reform MPS, which ultimately failed in the Legislature this spring, at various times included state funding for summer school, something that some outstate legislators opposed because their districts didn't get extra summer school money.

"Clearly, what didn't happen in Madison affects us dramatically," McGinnity said.

The teachers union and MPS have agreed on a format to hire teachers for the summer pro-

gram, and notices were sent to teachers who were selected for initial slots on May 22.

While some students in the summer school program this year will come from private and parochial schools, agreements for suburban students have not yet been established.

Board members have said they supported opening up the program to suburban students because it could result in more money for the district in the form of tuition.

Responding to questions from board members, McGinnity said MPS students would always get first priority in filling seats in the program.

"This was done initially around strengthening the academic skills of our kids," McGinnity said.

Board member Warren Braun, who chairs the board's Finance/Personnel Committee, said he asked Superintendent Alan Brown to report on the financial implications of the summer school program at the committee's meeting next week.

## Green Bay redevelopment planned

By KRISTINA M. KNAPIK  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

A \$2.7 million redevelopment project was announced Tuesday for two downtown Green Bay buildings in Van Drisse Square.

Tom Lynn — the grandson of Ed Van Drisse, who along with his brother, Joe, opened Van Drisse Motors in 1926 in the 100 block of S. Adams St. — is the owner and manager of Van Drisse Square LLC.

Lynn purchased the two original buildings and a parking structure for \$600,000 and plans to redevelop and expand them at a cost of about \$2.1 million. When complete, the buildings will have 49,000 square feet.

The buildings will be combined into one and will house a Jillian's restaurant and entertainment complex and office space, he said.

Lynn has been working on the project since November and has

the go-ahead from the city. He bought the buildings May 1 and said Jillian's officials hope to be open for business by October. The office space should be available to rent in the spring of 1999.

Jillian's will contain a sports video cafe, an outdoor dining area, billiard tables, a bowling alley, electronic games and other entertainment features.

One of the buildings is one story high and the other is three stories. Jillian's will take up the one-story building and two floors of the three-story building, Lynn said. A fourth floor will be added to the three-story building and the extra floors will be leased for office space.

This is Lynn's first venture into the development business. Previously he was a managing officer for F & M Bank in Green Bay. "It is a lot of fun to get a chance to redevelop and try to bring it back to life for the future," Lynn said.

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## Activist joins 19th District race

By JESSE GARZA  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Light rail advocate, community activist and Wisconsin Greens Party member Jim Carpenter has become the latest candidate to enter the 19th Assembly District Democratic primary election Sept. 8.

Carpenter, 49, joins Marcus White, 30, associate director of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, and Jonathan Richards, 34, a Milwaukee attorney representing opponents of a Jewel-Osco grocery and drug store on the site known as Humboldt Yards.

The 19th District stretches from Shorewood to St. Francis,

and as of Tuesday the three were the only declared candidates for the seat being vacated by state Rep. Barbara Notestein, according to state Elections Board records.

A strong advocate of light rail, Carpenter is coordinator of the Southeastern Wisconsin New Transportation Alliance and a member of the Wisconsin Fair Trade Campaign. He is a van driver for Elder Care Line Inc. and an assistant union steward for the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998.

In a news release, Carpenter said he will focus on social justice, environmental and economic issues.

## Oak Creek rezoning moves forward

Plan for 30-acre site gets preliminary OK, despite neighbors' objections

By J.R.S. OWCZARSKI  
Special to the Journal Sentinel

Oak Creek — Despite objections from neighbors, the Planning Commission on Tuesday gave preliminary approval to a plan that would rezone and divide about 30 acres of land in the 1200 block of E. Ryan Road.

By a 7-2 vote, the commission decided to send to a public hearing a request from land owner Mark Verhalen to rezone six of the acres from residential to agricultural use and to divide the entire area to allow for the construction of two estate-sized

homes. The hearing is set for July 21.

The proposal would divide the land into three pieces, two of which would be used for homes. One of the homes would be Verhalen's and the other would be sold. His request has been delayed in committee because it includes a provision for dumping a sizable amount of fill into what is now part of a flood plain to allow for construction.

Verhalen's plans include the installation of compensatory drainage by use of a retention pond elsewhere on the site.

Some neighbors expressed reservations about the plans.

Kathy O'Donnell said flooding is a constant problem in the area and she is afraid the new construction only would make

matters worse.

"We've got enough flooding as it is. We don't need any more bodies of water where mosquitoes can breed," she said.

Neighbor Mindy Engibous also questioned the plan.

"Consistently that water has become a greater and greater problem and has become closer and closer to our properties," she said.

Engibous and others also questioned Verhalen's assurances that he only intended to build two houses in the area.

He said he had no plans to put a subdivision in the area.

"I'd like to be able to farm for another 10 or 15 years," he said, "but the land is disappearing fast through no fault of my own."

## Prairie doggin' it



JIM SLOSIAREK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liza Zayas enjoys a laugh watching a black-tailed prairie dog sitting on top of a viewing bubble Monday at the Racine Zoo. Liza, who lives in Puerto Rico, is visiting family members in Waukegan, Ill.

## Ninja scare results in man's arrest

Employee at senior center shows up wearing masked costume, carrying sword

By JESSICA MCBRIDE  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

A 23-year-old Milwaukee man was arrested when a few months short of Halloween he showed up at a senior citizens center masked, wearing a Ninja costume and wielding a 3-foot sword.

The man, who worked at the center, has provided no explanation for his attire. Another employee who encountered the costumed co-worker in a back office fled in terror and was injured as a result, police said.

The suspect, who has not been charged, was arrested Monday after turning himself in at a police station accompanied by his mother.

The unusual encounter took place Thursday at the Washington Park Senior Citizens Center, 4420 W. Vliet St. Police reports indicate that the victim, a 52-year-old man, was "attacked by another employee that was dressed in a Ninja outfit and carrying a sword... victim suffered a back injury in his attempt to flee" after falling down stairs. The victim also suffered a cut to his forearm.

The suspect's phone has been disconnected and he refused to give a statement to police. The victim declined to comment.

Carol Eschner, executive director of the Interfaith Older Adults Program, said: "I'm not sure exactly what he (the suspect) was dressed in. I only had it described to me. Clearly he had on some sort of mask and he did have a sword. He didn't actually harm any staff member — the staff person tripped on the stairs."

Eschner said that the incident baffled the center employees. The man was promptly fired from his maintenance job, she said.

She said of the suspect: "He's a younger man. He was a very creative person. It was not at all in character for him."

## Today's construction update

Speed limits on eastbound I-94 are reduced to 55 mph between Waukesha County Highway G and Moorland Road.

**Waukesha County:** On-ramps at Highway 18 closed during peak hours. Barker Road on-ramp restricted to buses and cars during peak hours

**Milwaukee County:** From Stadium to 76th St.: Left lane closed 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

92nd St. to 76th St.: Right lane closed to 5 a.m. Thursday

Ramp closed 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On-ramp closed

Closed peak hours

On-ramp restricted to buses during peak hours

92nd St. to Mitchell Blvd.: Left lane closed

Ramp closed

Right lane closed through Stadium interchange

From Stadium to 13th St.: Left lane closed

From 13th St. to 11th St.: Left lane closed

From 11th St. to 9th St.: Left lane closed

From 9th St. to 7th St.: Left lane closed

From 7th St. to 5th St.: Left lane closed

From 5th St. to 3rd St.: Left lane closed

From 3rd St. to 1st St.: Left lane closed

From 1st St. to 11th St.: Left lane closed

From 11th St. to 9th St.: Left lane closed

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